



Renée Danziger

“We were naive young people. I wouldn’t have taken off my clothes off in front of my mother, and we were ordered to take our clothes off. Everything.”

Source: Interview by the Holocaust Museum Houston. No date.

Renée Danziger was born Renée Rosenberg in 1927 in Sighet, Transylvania, which today is in Romania. She led a carefree childhood until the 1940s. Then, her father lost his business and migrated the United States. Soon after, the Nazis occupied her country. In early 1944, Renée, her family and the other Jews of her town were marched to the train station and deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Upon arrival, Renée's mother and two youngest sisters were immediately sent to the gas chambers and her brother was killed as well. Renée felt that music kept her alive in the camps as she and other prisoners hummed songs to maintain hope. Renée was later transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where she was liberated by the Allies in May 1945.

Renée was brought to New York by her father in 1946 and later moved to Houston, Texas. One of the first things she did in the US was to have the number tattooed into her at Auschwitz surgically removed. Later, she became a supporter of the arts – especially orchestras. She died in 2013.

If you want to learn more about Renée Danziger you can read a children’s book written by her daughter and niece:

- *Music of the Butterfly: A Story of Hope*

Or you can watch a video interview with her: <https://hmh.org/survivors/renee-danziger/>

Discuss with your group and write answers to each question. Then decide who will present your group’s results to the whole class:

- What is the survivor’s background?
- What element of the intake process does the survivor describe?
- How does hearing about this make you feel?

**Eva Jellinek**

“They shaved our hair. Everything was shaved off.”

Source: Interview with the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive on March 13, 1997, in Australia (VHA Code: 29088).

Eva Jellinek was born Eva Nettl in 1921 in Czechoslovakia. She grew up in a mountain region near the German border in a large house with her sisters, parents, grandparents and house staff. Very few Jews lived in her town. Eva herself did not know she was Jewish until the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, when anti-Jewish legislation was enacted.

After the German occupation, Eva spent two years in an agricultural training camp located on a farm. It was meant to teach young Jewish people agricultural and practical skills to prepare them for emigration to Palestine. In 1942, however, Eva was forced by the Nazis to move to the Theresienstadt ghetto. In Theresienstadt, Eva worked as an infant nurse and got married to a young man she had met at the agricultural training camp. Then in 1944, she was deported from Theresienstadt to the Auschwitz concentration camp. During the selection process, Eva’s sister was immediately sent to the gas chambers because she had her little son with her. Eva herself was pregnant at the time, which she did not know yet. This probably saved her life, because pregnant women were immediately sent to their deaths.

After a few weeks, Eva was sent to do forced labor in the Merzdorf camp in Germany. In March of 1945, she gave birth to a baby boy. With the help of other inmates, she managed to save him until the camp was liberated by Russian soldiers in May 1945. In 1949, Eva emigrated to Australia with her husband and son. She became very interested in gardening and in 2009 was named Australia’s Gardener of the Year.

If you want to learn more about Eva Jellinek you can watch these short videos:

- www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/gardener-of-the-year-2009/9430878
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrrnAnuvKwg

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**Herman Haller**

“Another crew came in and put numbers on our arm.”

Source: Interview with the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive on July 21, 1995, in New York (VHA Code: 4189).

Herman Haller was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1924. His life changed in 1933, when the Nazis came to power. Almost immediately, people started boycotting his parents’ shop, just because the family was Jewish. In the early 1930s, his parents divorced. Herman’s father emigrated to Palestine, and Herman stayed behind in Berlin with his mother. In 1938, Herman’s mother sent him to Belgium to keep him safe from Nazi persecution of Jews. He initially lived with an uncle and later lived with a foster family. When the German Army invaded Belgium in 1940, Herman had to leave the foster family. The 16-year-old did not have papers, so he was always afraid of being arrested. In 1942, with the danger increasing, Herman fled to France. There his luck ran out, and he was arrested by the Nazis and then deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

At Auschwitz, Herman was forced to work constructing a factory. After three years, he was forced to take part in a so-called death march. Together with more than 50,000 other prisoners, he was marched on foot from Auschwitz towards Western Europe. In April 1945, he was liberated by American soldiers.

In 1947, Herman Haller moved to New Jersey. In later years, he became a frequent speaker at schools, telling students about the Holocaust. As of 2025, he was still living.

If you want to learn more about Herman Haller, you can read an interactive story about him here: www.storiesofnamesnotnumbers.org/survivors-data/herman-haller

Or you can watch a video interview with him: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ss2pCuQYLAw

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Mark Bader

“At that moment, my name and my life became a number.”

Source: Interview with the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive on Jan. 14, 1996, in Los Angeles (VHA Code: 10587).

Mark Bader was born Moishe Bader in 1927 in Oświęcim in Poland. Oświęcim is the Polish town that later became infamous after the Nazis opened the Auschwitz concentration camp there. Before Auschwitz existed, Oświęcim had a thriving and varied Jewish community. Mark came from a very religiously observant family and celebrated all the Jewish holidays.

Life changed for Mark when the German Army occupied Poland in 1939. The Nazis soon enacted very strict anti-Jewish laws and destroyed all the synagogues. When Mark celebrated his *bar mitzvah*, his Jewish coming-of-age ceremony, it had to take place in a basement with people standing guard to make sure that the Germans would not find them.

In 1941, the Nazis forced Mark and his family to move to a ghetto in Sosnowiec. In the end, Mark survived five different concentration camps – including Auschwitz and Dachau. At the camps, he was performed forced labor, including building bridges, laying railroad tracks, and digging ditches.

Four days after Mark’s 18th birthday, he was liberated from Dachau by American soldiers in April 1945. After the war, he emigrated to the United States and became a real estate developer in Los Angeles. He died in 2002.

If you want to learn more about Mark Bader, you can watch a video interview with him:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeeS_Zk2IDM&t=715s

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Barbara Fischman Traub

“I felt this was the last stripping away of my identity.”

Source: Interview with the USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive on March 27, 1995, in New York (VHA Code: 4361).

Barbara Fischman Traub was born Golda Fischman in 1925 in Sighet, Transylvania, which today is in Romania. She was the youngest of four children. When the Germans invaded Romania in 1944, they forced Barbara and her family to move to a ghetto simply for being Jewish. In May 1944, the Nazis deported Barbara to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

In Auschwitz, Barbara was forced to perform difficult labor. Then in December 1944, she was sent to the Weisswasser concentration camp located in Czechoslovakia where she was forced to work in a factory. The camp was liberated by the Soviet army in 1945.

Barbara lost her parents and a brother in the Holocaust. She emigrated to the United States and studied patent law. She became very involved in Holocaust education and wrote a novel based on her experiences in Auschwitz.

If you want to learn more about Barbara Fischman Traub, you can read her novel:

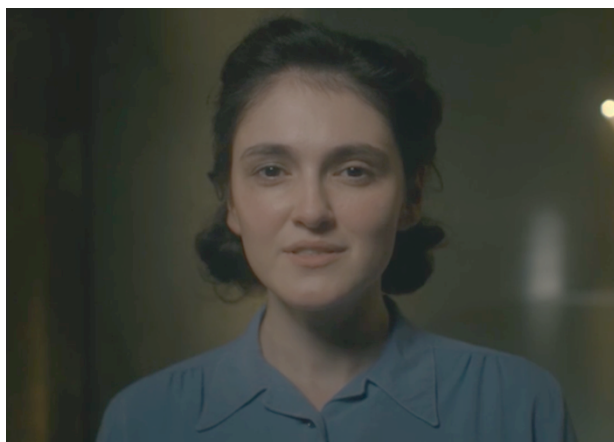
- *The Matrushka Doll*

Or you can watch these short interview segments with her:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVjW1Kmfr0c>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tQ0hI-PWF8>

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Anita Lasker-Wallfisch

“In the space of a few minutes, I had been stripped of every vestige of human dignity and becoming indistinguishable from everyone else around me.”

Source: Anita Lasker-Wallfisch: *Inherit the Truth: A Memoir of Survival and the Holocaust*.

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch was born Anita Lasker in 1925 in Breslau, which at the time was a German city, but today is part of Poland. She grew up in an educated Jewish family. Music and literature were central to their household. Anita started playing the cello at a young age.

In 1942, her parents were deported to the Izbica transit camp and murdered there. At the same time, the Nazis forced 16-year-old Anita and her older sister, Renate, to work in a paper factory. Anita and Renate tried to escape but were caught by the Germans. The sisters spent 18 months in jail and were then deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp in December 1943.

In Auschwitz, Anita became a cellist in the Women’s Orchestra. This proved to be lifesaving, as musicians were spared immediate murder. Anita played in the orchestra for a year. In November 1944, she was deported to the Bergen-Belsen camp and was liberated by British forces in April 1945.

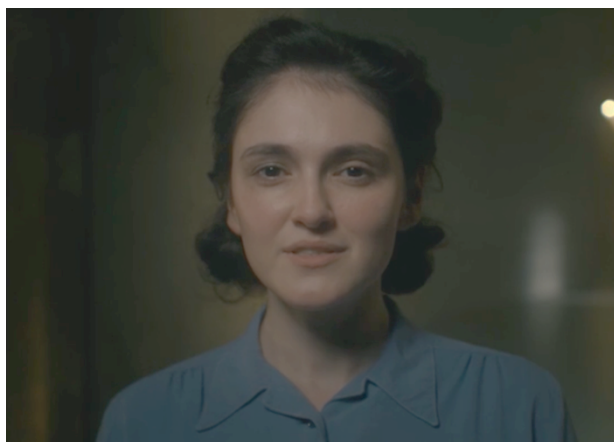
After the war, Anita emigrated to the United Kingdom. She studied music and co-founded the English Chamber Orchestra. At 100 years old, Anita is the only living member of the Auschwitz Women’s Orchestra. She frequently speaks about her experiences, particularly in German schools and universities.

If you want to learn more about Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, you can:

- Read her autobiography: *Inherit the Truth: A Memoir of Survival and the Holocaust*
- Go to YouTube where you will find dozens of videos with and about her.

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Anita Lasker-Wallfisch

“Here I was stark naked, and she was asking me, ‘Who did you study with?’ It was somehow rather incongruous.”

Source: Interview in *The Last Musician of Auschwitz*.

Note: incongruous means something that doesn’t fit or seems out of place. Imagine someone shows up to a swimming pool in a full winter coat and snow boots — that would be *incongruous*, because it doesn’t match the situation.

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch was born Anita Lasker in 1925 in Breslau, which at the time was a German city, but today is part of Poland. She grew up in an educated Jewish family. Music and literature were central to their household. Anita started playing the cello at a young age.

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